

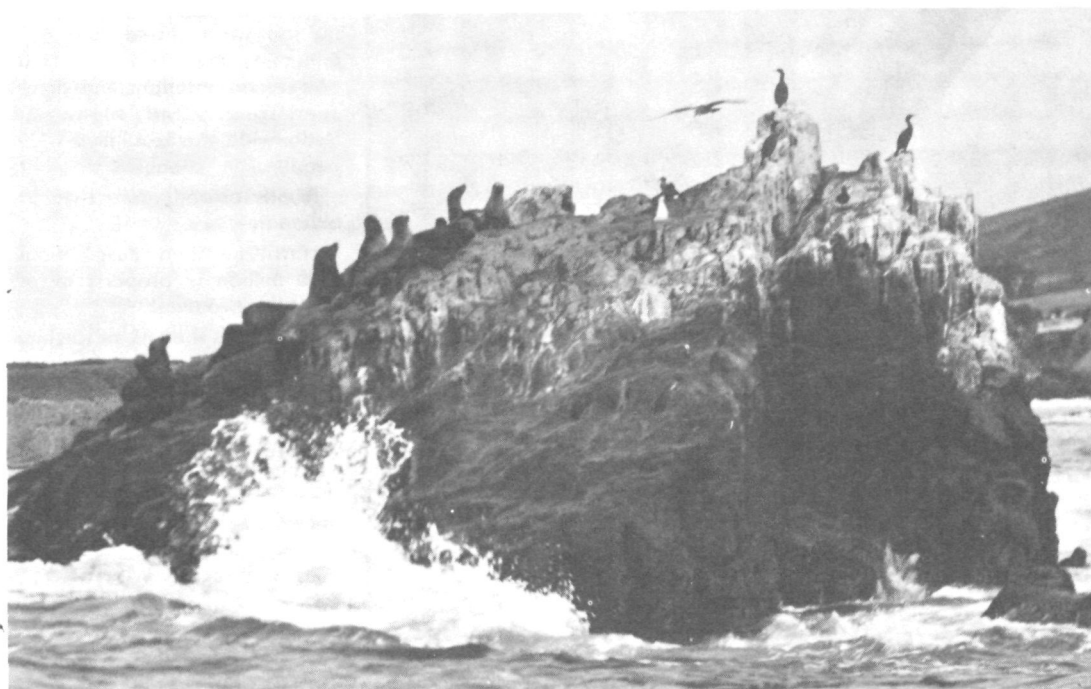


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NOAA news

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Three Sites Designated Sanctuaries

Sites in California, Florida and Georgia have been designated as national marine sanctuaries.

The three sites that now will become protected areas as a result of a presidential order are Looe Key, in the lower Florida Keys, Point Reyes Farallon Islands near San Francisco and Gray's reef, off the Coast of Georgia.

The designations bring the number of sanctuaries to six that NOAA now manages and protects under a 1972 law.

The sanctuary designations will provide for comprehensive management of the three sites and still allow for traditional public use of the areas. Research conducted at the sites also will add substantially to our understanding of the marine environment.

Looe Key, a 5.32 square-nautical-mile area southwest of Big Pine Key is one of the few well-developed living coral reefs off the continental United States. The sanctuary's coral formations support a diversity of marine species. Because of its wide range of depths, close proximity to land, and variety of marine life, Looe Key is a popular recreational area.

Point Reyes-Farallon Islands encompasses a 948-square nautical-mile area off the California coast. The sanctuary, which includes state waters, is characterized by irregular coastlines and submerged rocky inter tidal areas. It is the habitat of some of the largest seabird rookeries in the United States, providing nesting sites for at least 12 of the 16 species known to breed on the West Coast. The sanctuary also supports a large and varied marine mammal population. At least 23 species feed and give birth there. Whales, including

(Continued on p. 3)

NOAA Weather Radio Has Taken To The Road

Eleven states are providing travelers along federal highways with an extra measure of protection by making continuous local weather broadcasts available at more than 150 rest stops and tourist centers, NOAA reports.

Each facility has been equipped with a special radio receiver capable of picking up routine and emergency broadcasts from the nearest transmitter at NOAA's Weather Radio, the national radio network of the National Weather Service (NWS).

Dr. Richard E. Hallgren, director of the NWS, said that having access to the broadcasts could prove a lifesaving service for many motorists.

"When severe weather threatens, knowing whether to stay off the road or plan an alternate route can mean the difference between a safe trip and a possible tragedy," Hallgren said.

The Federal Highway Administration is providing states with grants covering 90 percent of the cost of purchasing and installing the receivers.

The 11 states taking part in the

program are Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington. Sixteen other states have expressed strong interest in the program.

Earl W. Estelle, chief of the NWS' public service branch, said

he thinks that most of the 1,350 rest stops and tourist centers on federal highways that are within range of NOAA Weather Radio's 340 transmitters will be equipped with the radio receivers within the next few years.

—Carolyn Habbersett

Puerto Rico Gets Sea Grant

The University of Puerto Rico has been awarded \$210,000 in Sea Grant funds to continue its marine advisory services and expand its marine research and educational projects.

The University, which has been developing its marine advisory services over the past three years, will provide \$159,000 in matching funds.

According to Dr. Manuel L. Hernandez-Avila, director of Puerto Rico's Sea Grant program, the first Sea Grant research project pertains to living resources. During the study, investigators will isolate and identify potential disease-

causing fungi present in the intertidal zone of shoreline areas of Puerto Rico. There is evidence that tropical climate contributes to the development of organisms which may be harmful to people who work and live near the beaches.

The scientists also will investigate the possibility of using marine vegetation to make pigments and paper, and of using marine rocks and shells to create art work.

A marine science education program will be developed to create awareness among educators of the need for such

(Continued on p. 3)

LETTER FROM THE LABS

By Richard Newell

Mosha Kleiman goes home next week. Dr. Kleiman, a young atmospheric scientist from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, has been conducting research for the Wave Propagation Laboratory in Boulder under the sponsorship of NOAA, through the National Research Council.

Health Competition—Last year about 1000 applications were received for the nearly 200 NRC Research Associateships available. NOAA received 80 of these applications and made 15 new appointments. As explained by NOAA's NRC-program staffer Ms. Cathy Criley, each applicant prepared a detailed research plan tailored to the mission of a particular NOAA research component. If NOAA approves it, the plan is reviewed on a competitive basis by an NRC evaluation panel.

"The NRC program started up about twelve years ago," said Criley. "Scientists are applying now for the 1981 awards." Those who succeed will have a full year to work on a project of their choosing in a NOAA laboratory specializing in that line of research. "NOAA benefits too," Criley said, "because we get first-rate

scientists who are dedicated to seeing their projects through to success."

All participants have doctorates and must have demonstrated superior ability for creative research. Roughly one-third are English-speaking foreign nationals and the rest are from academic and private organizations in this country. Of the latter, about half are senior scientists and the others have held the doctorate less than five years.

Laser Radar—Dr. Kleiman heard about the NRC program through a colleague. He then contacted the NOAA research advisor in his area of interest, laser physics, and prepared a research proposal which was accepted. His work here will help the new field of remote sensing by laser radar (lidar) to realize its full potential.

By the time you read this, Mosha Kleiman will have returned to his homeland. His work here marks the beginning of an enduring professional liaison. "That's been one of the most exciting fruits of this program," said Criley. "—the ongoing ties with foreign scientists."

Quality Control—Criley explains that one of the most impressive things about this \$500,000-a-year NOAA-funded program is its rigorous quality control. All participating research facilities must meet rigid NRC standards, and the research advisors, all outstanding scientists, are also carefully screened. And this tough screening process extends to the applicants themselves. "We certainly get an excellent return on our investment," Criley said.

The program is especially valuable as a source of top-quality, short-term research support. Furthermore, many prominent NOAA scientists first came to the agency as NRC research associates.

It's In The Book—Details about the program, and about the types of research that NOAA conducts, appear in a 50-page booklet entitled "Resident Research Associateships-1981." In the years ahead, NOAA's research frontier will be pushed forward, many gaps filled in, and perhaps a few brand new fields opened up. This NOAA/NRC research program is helping to pave the way for that progress.

1980 Weather Contains Lots Of Bad News

The weather in the United States during 1980 was a downer.

A three-month heat wave in the southwest caused about \$20 billion in ruined crops, increased power consumption, and damaged roads and highways. Nationwide, the heat killed 1,320 people.

Floods caused more than \$1 billion in losses.

Hurricane Allen caused about \$500 million in property losses and took two lives.

NOAA has the task of totaling up these damages and casualties. NOAA reported that the highest temperature reading during 1980, 124 degrees Fahrenheit, was reached five times. Locations were at Bull Head, Ariz; Death Valley, Calif; and three times at Baker, Calif.

NOAA's preliminary figures also show that the lowest temperature for the year was recorded at Tok weather station, 150 miles southeast of Fairbanks, Alaska. There the mercury plummeted to minus 68 degrees.

In the lower 48, the minimum thermometer reading was minus 47 degrees at Wisdom, Mont.

Deaths due to lightning were down to 78 last year from the 20-year average of 104. Deaths caused by tornadoes dropped to 28, the second lowest total in 65 years.

Lightning storms also produced more than \$750 million in damage.

NOAA's Environmental Data and Information Service also provided the following summary of the extraordinarily bad weather:

Spring flooding began in March in Alabama and Mississippi, with rainfalls of 18 inches, more than three times normal.

Also in March, Mt. St. Helens erupted. Although not of itself a weather event, the huge plumes of ash and gases affected the weather. The eruption left 34 dead and caused more than \$150 million damage.

On April 27, heavy thunderstorms and wind gusts of up to 42 miles per hour contributed to a ship crashing into Sunshine Sky-

(Continued on p. 3)



Receives Grant—Congressman Jack Brooks (D-Tex.), left and Port Arthur, Texas, Mayor Bernis Sadler, center, receive the final payment of a \$780,000 Coastal Energy Impact program loan from William Matuszeski of the Office of Coastal Zone Management. The loan is part of \$20 million OCZM has provided the Texas city to help build a water main to supply the oil and gas industry, eliminating the need for water rationing.

State Fishery Inspection Permitted

A cooperative agreement permitting state personnel to inspect fish and fishery products for the Department of Commerce was signed by the State of New Jersey and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) December 5, [1980], at Deal's Seafood Company in Magnolia, New Jersey. Secretary of Agriculture Phillip Alampi signed the agreement for the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and Thomas J. Billy, Chief, Seafood Research, Inspection and Consumer Services Division of NMFS signed for the Department of Commerce.

The agreement permits existing state food inspectors to be trained and cross-licensed by the NMFS so they provide USDC inspection services for fishery plants and products. The cross-licensing approach makes inspection services more readily available to the trade, and increases the amount of inspected products available to consumers.

The voluntary, fee-for-service program encourages and assists the fish industry in improving and maintaining the quality and safety of its products through inspection and standardization procedures, usually performed by Federal inspectors.

New Jersey is the first Mid-Atlantic fish producing state to enter the program. It joins Arkansas, Tennessee, Oregon, Maine, and Hawaii already inspecting fish and fishery products under previously signed agreements.

Weather Report Dark And Dismal

(Continued from p. 2)

line Bridge at Tampa Bay. Thirty lives were lost and harbor traffic was delayed for five days.

The great summer heat wave—between June and mid-August—was the United States' most devastating weather calamity during 1980. On July 13, temperature records were shattered in several southern states. Dallas, Texas had 100 degrees or above each day from June 23 to Aug. 3.



Stars Congratulated—Mrs. Helen Keller, second from left, wife of Dr. Edward Keller, the Director of the Marine Science School for the Physically Handicapped and Mr. John Haberlin, right, NOAA's Manager of Programs for the Handicapped/Veterans speak with two stars of the film "You Can."

North Carolina Receives \$2.4 Million NOAA Grant For Studies On Coastal Development, Fisheries

More than \$3.5 million in federal and state funds will be allocated for marine studies in North Carolina during the next two years.

A grant to the University of North Carolina Sea Grant College program will be used to finance 29 projects. They will range from studies on the effect of coastal development upon state fisheries to ways to produce more food from the sea.

Eight North Carolina educational institutions take part in the state's Sea Grant College program.

The National Sea Grant office of NOAA is providing \$2,385,000 of the funding. The remaining \$1,210,000 will come from the North Carolina Department of Administration, through the state's Office of Marine Affairs.

Among projects being funded are:

- Improving the packaging of seafood and refining methods for using such processed seafood as minced fish;
- Identifying the bacterial and viral contamination of shellfish;
- Exploring alternative ways of harvesting clams;

- Sampling resident opinion on the management of the state's shrimp industry, and

- Determining the North Carolina seafood industry's present and future need for skilled labor.

Although most of the projects will focus upon the needs of commercial marine industries, funds also will be used to establish fellowships in marine studies for five undergraduate students

from primarily black or Indian colleges.

Some 80,000 youths also are expected to participate in marine science education programs. These are aimed at developing volunteer leaders for the state's 4-H program.

Order Protects Three New Sites

(Continued from p. 1)

several endangered species, and porpoises migrate through the area.

Gray's reef, 17 miles east of Sapelo Island, Georgia, year round is considered an exceptional recreational area by fishermen who fish there for snapper, grouper, mackerel and other game. It offers an accessible living laboratory for marine research and education.

A 16.68 square-nautical-mile area of productive lime rock reefs, Gray's reef also provides a habitat for an abundance and variety of other marine organisms, including threatened and endangered sea turtles and tropical reef fish and corals which are rare to the area.

University Gets Marine Grant

(Continued from p. 1)

education in Puerto Rico. A curriculum for kindergarten through grade three will be prepared.

The advisory program will continue providing marine oriented information and services to people living and working in the coastal communities. Twelve 30-minute television programs will be used to orient and educate the general public about the sea, its resources, and its problems.

Hazen H. Bedke, Director of the National Weather Service, Western Region has announced the selection of **Herbert P. Benner** as Chief of Meteorological Services. The Western Region of the National Weather Service is responsible for providing weather services in eight western states, Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Utah and Arizona.

Benner is a native of Pasadena, Ca., graduating from the high school program at Pasadena Junior College in 1945. He later graduated from Utah State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology.

Benner, a native of Pasadena, Ca., was graduated from the high school program at Pasadena Junior College in 1945. He later was graduated from Utah State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology, highest award, the Gold Medal Award as well as the Department's Bronze Medal Award. He is a member of the American Meteorological Society and National Weather Association.



Robert Ahistedt (left), Contract Specialist at NOAA's Northwest Administrative Service Office in Seattle has recently been designated by the National Contract Management Association as a Certified Professional Contracts Manager, following his successful completion of a comprehensive six hour written examination covering the areas of Contract Law, Finance, Business and Accounting. The significance of this award is best recognized by a national industry/government exam passing rate of 40%. NASO now has three CPCMs in their Contracting Office. Shown presenting Ahistedt's certificate is Dale Gough, Director of NASO.

NOAA news

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Tax Note

Employees who are subject to tax withholdings for the City of Dayton, Ohio, may notice a change in their city tax for salary checks dated on or after January 24, 1981.

Locater Update

The NOAA Locater is being updated for the directory. Employees whose location or telephone number has changed since the July 1, 1980 directory should submit a NOAA Form 46-11 to MB/A02 by February 20.

Billy M. Lewis, Meteorologist with the National Hurricane Research Laboratory, AOML, Coral Gables, Florida, died on December 23, 1980.

He began his government service in 1943 as Assistant Manager in the War Engineering Department. He also served in the U.S. Merchant Marine and as a corporal in the U.S. Army. He entered the Weather Bureau in 1947 as a clerk-plotter, took leave to earn his B.S. degree at the University of Georgia and returned as a meteorological aide in 1951. After receiving a M.S. degree from New York University in 1953, he returned to the Weather Bureau in the Scientific Services Division. He joined the Extended Forecast Section in 1955 and rose to take charge of computer adaptation.

Mr. Lewis served as Captain, U.S. Air Force, in 1961 and 1962, after which he returned to the Extended Forecast Section. The Weather bureau sponsored him for advanced training at Florida State University in 1964-65. Upon completion of training, he joined the National Hurricane Research Laboratory.

Dr. Gerald L. Barger, former director of the Environmental Data and Information Service's National Climatic Center and director of research died of cancer in his home in Columbia, Mo. Dr. Barger was a world authority on agricultural climatology and authored many papers concerning the relationship of climate to food production. At the time of his death, he was a meteorologist for Lockheed Electronic Co. with an adjunct faculty appointment at the University of Missouri.

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